# The Chicago Tribune.

VOL XXII. CHICAGO, MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1868. NUMBER 173


## WASHINGTON.

Report of the Retrenchment Committee on Whiskey Frauds, &c.

Testimony of Commissioner Rollins.

High-Handed Corruption and Knavery.

Return of General Grant and Party---An Incident.

Facts About a Laird Blockade-Runner.

Commissioners' Report on the Kansas Line of the Union Pacific Railroad.

Special Dispatch to The Chicago Tribune.

RETRENCHMENT COMMITTEE.

The report of Mr. Van Wyck, from the Committee on Retrenchment, on whiskey frauds, and the management of the Internal Revenue Department, will be before the House to-morrow, and will be found of interest. It covers fifty pages. The committee find that the frauds on the revenue during the past year have been very great; but by reason of the action of the tax on spirits, to enable Provisional attempts, in the future, to perpetrate to the same extent that he is permitted to do so. The committee have come to the conclusion that the present system of collecting the revenue from distilled spirits is a failure, and that it is impossible to secure the collection of the tax by reason of the inadequacy of the present law. The committee have come to the conclusion that the only way to secure the collection of the tax is to require the distillers to put their spirits in bonded warehouses, and to withdraw the same therefrom only upon the payment of the tax. The committee have prepared a bill to that effect, which will be reported to the House. The committee have also prepared a bill to abolish the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and to transfer the duties of that office to the Secretary of the Treasury, which will be reported to the House. The committee have also prepared a bill to abolish the office of Assessor of Internal Revenue, and to transfer the duties of that office to the Collectors of Internal Revenue, which will be reported to the House. The committee have also prepared a bill to abolish the office of Supervisor of Internal Revenue, and to transfer the duties of that office to the Collectors of Internal Revenue, which will be reported to the House. The committee have also prepared a bill to abolish the office of Inspector of Internal Revenue, and to transfer the duties of that office to the Collectors of Internal Revenue, which will be reported to the House. The committee have also prepared a bill to abolish the office of Gauger of Internal Revenue, and to transfer the duties of that office to the Collectors of Internal Revenue, which will be reported to the House. The committee have also prepared a bill to abolish the office of Storekeeper

# The Tribune.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1866.

THE DAILY TRIBUNE is issued every morning (Sundays excepted), at No. 154 Nassau-street, New-York.

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## THE MOORHEAD MONSTER.

We published a few days ago the "Illinois tariff" bill proposed by Moorhead, of Pennsylvania, and now pending in the House of Representatives. It is a mild description of the bill to style it a "little monster." It is a bill to grant bounties to certain persons engaged in producing certain descriptions of manufactures. There is not the slightest pretence that the bill can promote any public end. It is not a bill to increase the revenue or to prohibit importations. It is a bill to enable the beneficiaries to collect from their customers additional prices upon articles of manufacture.

The bill proposes to increase the duty on all descriptions of iron, rolled, hammered, or made into shapes, or for bars, from half a cent per pound, as at present, to 1½ cents a pound.

To increase the duty on iron wire cloth from 35 per cent ad valorem to 45 cents per square foot and 35 per cent ad valorem.

To increase the duty on ordinary glass from 10 cents per pound to 2½, 54 cents per pound.

But the amazing cupidity reads as follows:

"That in addition to the rates now charged and collected on all descriptions and qualities of steel, there shall be charged and collected one and one-half cents per pound, and on steel wire, the cost per pound, on cartridge, car, locomotive and other springs made of steel, eight cents per pound."

The iron duty is charged on steel are 2½ cents per pound, and on springs 45 per cent ad valorem. The reader will see how unblushingly this bill proposes to increase the price of the articles named. Steel is not exposed to outside foreign competition, even on the pretense of protecting domestic manufactures, but by increasing the duties was some years ago reduced in the fall and destruction of the office.

The responsibility for this buccaneering on the part of the criminality of these engaged in building it; the city authorities are no less guilty. The terrible affair of two years ago, chiefly half a dozen strong, valuation building in the heart of the business city, and the Legislature to grant ample power to the city to guard against the recurrence of a calamity like it. The State has the power to supervise the construction and erection of all buildings, and to arrest the contractor of all of whose specifications have not been duly filed, examined and approved. How, by what officers? If no attention was paid to this, nor any attention given to the matter, are the city authorities responsible?

## THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The greatest and—in subsequent events have proved—the most perplexing of European questions—was initiated when Mr. Gladstone succeeded Sir Robert Peel, in May, 1845—the Corn went down before the Crescent, and the Turk, entering Constantinople in triumph, became thenceforward in the ancient capital of the Cæsars. Then originated the "Eastern Question," which, in varied forms, has ever since been a fruitful source of anxiety and trouble. The Christian powers, at first, were fearful lest they, too, might share the fate of the Byzantine Empire; but, after the signal check inflicted upon the Russians by the Turks at Silistri and his conquest, their waning strength ceased to create alarm, and soon they were regarded partly with contempt and but even with sympathy. For, north of the Balkan, a far greater power had arisen. Russia showed both her ability and her eagerness to crush the Turk. She was then from European aid; but the Western nations interfered, lest the balance of power should be destroyed. This the question has formed a subject of diplomacy. The days of the Turks, that for that support, would have been numbered. Western Europe jealously guarded the Turk in his increasing growth of their Russian rival. Thus matters stood in the time of President Buchanan. Ultimately that professedly Christian power should support an infidel Turk. But policy of policy prevailed against the predilections and fears of the people. Then came the Crimean war, in which England and France—the former with all her might—fought to maintain the integrity of the Ottoman Empire, so much so, that the elder William Pitt declared in the House of Commons that if anyone did not recognize this as the object of the useless Russian war, the American people would be blind in their hearts. "He is the man we shall soon Protestant in 1856," and there has been no time from that date up to the 3d of November last that we have not watched that purpose. It grew upon them strongest as the time for its execution approached. The Chicago Convention last May resolved "That the existing rebellion must be crushed, but it will be the first recognition of the "true object of the war" made by an English Conservative Minister. Fifteen years ago, England, in pursuance of that "traditional policy," "drifted" into the Crimean war almost unintentionally, but now by the most deliberate forethought. Lord Stanley, the then Foreign Secretary, delivered a speech to his constituents, which has excited universal comment. In it he set forth the policy of the Government of the Ottoman Empire, he said it was not for England to oppose the consequences. Russia had formed foreign alliances, no European guarantee, and protect a government against financial collapse or against rebellion in its own provinces. In those matters every country must be left to work out its own destiny." At last great publication of this utterance is, that it is the first renunciation of the "traditional policy

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## THE RECENT SALE.

**Total Wreck of Three Buildings on Adams Street.**

**Alleged Architectural Fault.**

**Several Persons Seriously Injured.**

**Narrow Escape of Many from Instant Death.**

Other Enrags.

During Saturday night and yesterday this city and vicinity was visited by the severest cold-weather storm of the season, which has occurred for many months, and the thermometer ranged from 8 to 10 degrees above zero, though fortunately it has been unaccompanied by any high winds, and the snowfall has not been very heavy. Up to the present time no fatalities have been reported, though the fury of the winds was, yesterday morning, the fatal destruction of a large brick building, partially finished, and two adjoining structures of frame, and has also caused alarming injury to two persons and death to three or four horses. The wreck is perfect, and gives alarming evidence of the great power of the storm, which, it is said, reached its terrible climax during the early morning hours of yesterday. The casualty, which occurred at 8 o'clock yesterday morning, was a large and substantial three-story brick building, which was in process of erection on the north side of Adams street, between Jefferson and Clinton streets, and was owned by Mr. Ryan, a prominent builder, who had the contract for the erection of the building. The walls were about completed, and the roof was on, and the interior was in process of finishing. The building was 50 feet front by 100 feet deep, and was to be occupied by Mr. Ryan as a planing-mill, and for the manufacture of sash, doors, blinds, &c. The walls were of brick, and were about 40 feet high, and were supported by heavy timbers, which were placed at intervals of about 12 feet. The roof was of the usual construction, and was supported by heavy timbers, which were placed at intervals of about 12 feet. The roof was of the usual construction, and was supported by heavy timbers, which were placed at intervals of about 12 feet. The roof was of the usual construction, and was supported by heavy timbers, which were placed at intervals of about 12 feet.

The first intimation of the disaster was given by the crash of the falling walls, and was heard by many persons in the vicinity, who rushed to the scene of the disaster, and found the entire front of the building, from the basement to the roof, had fallen outward, and lay in a confused mass of ruins on the sidewalk and in the street. The roof, which was of the usual construction, and was supported by heavy timbers, which were placed at intervals of about 12 feet, had also fallen, and lay in the ruins of the walls. The interior of the building was also in a state of ruin, and the floors had fallen, and lay in the ruins of the walls. The roof, which was of the usual construction, and was supported by heavy timbers, which were placed at intervals of about 12 feet, had also fallen, and lay in the ruins of the walls.

Among the persons who were injured by the falling walls were Mr. Ryan, the owner of the building, who was severely injured in the head and shoulders, and was taken to his residence, No. 298 Fulton street, in this city, at a very late hour last night, and is reported to be in a critical condition. Mr. Ryan was also injured in the head and shoulders, and was taken to his residence, No. 298 Fulton street, in this city, at a very late hour last night, and is reported to be in a critical condition.

The loss of property destroyed is quite large, and will probably amount to $40,000, which is fully covered by insurance.

### Obituary.

Charles Barthow Wignall, for eleven years the commercial editor of the Chicago *Evening Journal*, expired at his residence, No. 198 Wabash avenue, in this city, at forty-five minutes past two o'clock yesterday afternoon. At the making out of his death he was thirty years of age, and was a native of Manchester, Lancashire, England. He had been married but twelve years, where, and was the father of two children. Mr. Wignall was a native of Boston, Mass., and was born in that city for the last twelve years, where, and was the father of two children. Mr. Wignall was a native of Boston, Mass., and was born in that city for the last twelve years, where, and was the father of two children. Mr. Wignall was a native of Boston, Mass., and was born in that city for the last twelve years, where, and was the father of two children.

### Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress.

There will be exhibited next Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, at the Wabash Avenue Baptist Church, corner of Eighteenth street, the most important scenes in Bunyan's immortal allegory, illustrated by reading and tableaux. All persons desiring to visit the church during the above evenings will be welcomed by the pastor, Rev. Mr. Wignall will be conducted to the church, and